

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03263 011755Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

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R 011715Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1044

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC - CS (NARANJO COTO, CARMEN)

SUBJECT: FY-76 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

FOR: CU/ARA

REF: SAN JOSE 2612

1. POST SUBMITS PART I OF NOMINATION FOR IV CANDIDATE CARMEN NARANJO COTO, MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS. SINCE SHE IS OF CABINET LEVEL, WE WOULD PREFER THAT SHE RECEIVE VIP PER DIEM. SHE WORKED WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AS ASSISTANT MANAGER; UNTIL APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. APPROXIMATE AGE 45, COSTA RICAN, HAS TRAVELLED TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO THE U.S. AS A RECIPIENT OF AN IOWA WRITER'S GRANT IN 1969. HER ENGLISH IS VERY GOOD, DOES NOT NEED INTERPRETER AND SHE IS ELIGIBLE FOR VISA.

2. MINISTER NARANJO IS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC OFFICIALS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. SHE IS A FORMER GRANTEE IN THE IOWA WRITER'S WORKSHOP PROGRAM (1969), AND SINCE THAT TIME HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT WORKS OF FICTION, SHORT STORIES, POEMS, ETC. IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JOSE FIGUERES SHE SERVED AS COSTA RICA'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. SINCE JOINING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AS MINISTER OF CULTURE, OVER A YEAR AGO, SHE HAS REVITALIZED HER MINISTRY, MAKING IT A MOST EFFICIENT, PRODUCTIVE AND DARING ARM OF GOVERNMENT.

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3. UNDER HER LEADERSHIP NATIONAL FOLKLORE HAS COME OF AGE, THE SYMPHONY IS BIG BUSINESS, AND THE FINE ARTS ARE FLOURISHING. THE NATIONAL THEATRE IS ABLAZE OF LIGHTS SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM HOSTS DAILY DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES.

4. WE NOTE THAT MUCH OF MINISTER NARANJO'S CULTURAL PROGRAMMING ORIENTATION SEEMS TO AIM AT THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE AND AT MEXICAN AND OTHER NEW WORLD MODELS. A NEW RADIO AND TELEVISION BILL, SPONSORED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, WHICH IMPOSES STATE REGULATION OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA MUCH MORE THAN THE PRESENT LAW, IS PERHAPS A MANIFESTATION OF THIS ORIENTATION.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT, IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR MINISTER NARANJO TO BE ABLE TO REVISIT THE UNITED STATES, RENEW OLD INTELLECTUAL ACQUAINTANCES, GET THE FLAVOR OF TODAY'S BROADWAY, LINCOLN CENTER, KENNEDY CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY SCENE. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WOULD LIKE HER TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE VITAL NEW CULTURAL LIFE IN THE U.S. AS WE GO INTO 1976. DURING SUCH A VISIT, MRS. NARANJO SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO GET AN IN-DEPTH VIEW AT PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AND AT SOME OF THE FIRST RATE COMMERCIAL TV PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

6. MINISTER NARANJO COULD PROBABLY TRAVEL IN OCTOBER. WE HOPE HER TRIP COULD INCLUDE ATTENDANCE AT A SIGNIFICANT BICENTENNIAL EVENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO03263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750267-0094
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750795/aaaadgzu.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SAN JOSE 2612
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JAN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY-76 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM FOR: CU/ARA
TAGS: OEXC, CS, (NARANJO COTO, CARMEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006